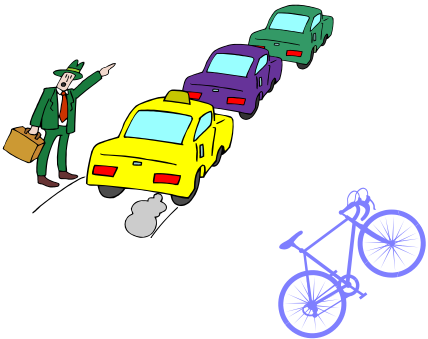


## How You Can Get More Involved

You do not have to be a transportation expert to participate in the planning process. You have the knowledge and insight into local problems that transportation planners and local officials need to make informed decisions.



**Join the WAMPO email list:** To receive quarterly newsletters and notices when public meetings and comment periods are held, email [kspielman@wichita.gov](mailto:kspielman@wichita.gov) or call (316) 352-4860.

**Log onto the WAMPO website:** [www.wampoks.org](http://www.wampoks.org). From the website you can read our documents, learn about upcoming events, take a survey, meet the staff, and link to other transportation planning related sites.

### Attend our monthly meetings:

- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) typically meets the last Monday of every month at 10:00 A.M.
- Transportation Policy Body (TPB) typically meets the second Tuesday of every month at 3:00 P.M.

Both meetings are held at:  
455 N. Main St. 10th Floor. Wichita, KS.

**Contact your elected representatives:**  
Write or call the elected officials for your region and let them know how you feel about your transportation system.



## The MPO Citizen's Guide



### The Citizen's Guide for Participation in the Transportation Planning Process

**W A M P O**

Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization



## Why Should I Get Involved?

**You already are!** Chances are you used some form of transportation today. Whether you drove a car, rode a bike, took a bus, used a wheelchair, or walked; you are involved. Transportation is what allows you to get to and from work, school, meetings, the grocery store, special events, vacations, and various other destinations. It affects our quality of life, from the air we breathe, to the safety of our families, to your own personal budget.



The transportation system is designed to serve you. Funding to develop and maintain our transportation system comes from several sources—including your tax dollars!

Your input is critical to the overall quality of our region's transportation system and to ensure that your transportation needs are being met.

- What forms of transportation do you use?
- Are you satisfied with your choices?
- Do you have any problems with this method?
- Would you like more options?

## Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **What:** The TIP is used as a management tool to gauge progress towards achieving the goals identified in the MTP. It documents the anticipated costs of projects, and the expected revenues from all three sources: local, state, and federal. In short, the TIP is the tool that allows federal funds to be programmed towards projects.
- **How often:** The TIP identifies and lists transportation projects for implementation in the next four federal fiscal years. It is updated every two years. An amendment process is scheduled quarterly and as needed to add or alter projects.
- **Significance:** To receive federal funds, projects must be included in the TIP, and typically have available matching local funds. As with the MTP, the costs of the projects cannot exceed the limited amount of available revenue.

## Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- **What:** The UPWP documents the transportation planning activities and products WAMPO and the public transit provider will conduct or complete in the upcoming calendar year.
- **How often:** Yearly. UPWP can be amended when needed.

The public has multiple opportunities for involvement and opportunities to provide comments on all plans and programs before they are approved by the Transportation Policy Body (TPB)

## Special Documents and Studies

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Corridor Studies

Freight Plan

ITS/Regional Architecture

Safety Plan

Regional Pathway System Plan (RPSP)

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Railroad Crossing Plan (RRCP)

Regional Safe Routes to School Plan



## Table of Contents

Why Should I Get Involved?	2
What is WAMPO?	3
Understanding the Transportation Planning Process	4
Transportation Planning Principles	5
WAMPO Plans and Programs	6
How You Can Get More Involved	8

*This booklet is designed to help inform you about WAMPO, the transportation planning process, and ways you can get involved.*

## WAMPO Plans and Programs

WAMPO coordinates and completes many plans, projects, and studies; however there are three main federally required plans and programs that WAMPO is responsible for. The three plans and programs are designed to create a vision, implement and monitor projects, and provide financial guidance.

The three main plans and programs are:

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

To view entire documents, WAMPO boundary map, functional classification and other maps, see [www.wampoks.org](http://www.wampoks.org).



### Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

(Also known as the Long Range Transportation Plan)

#### Transportation Systems Addressed in the MTP

Highway, Streets, and Roads  
Public Transportation  
Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Aviation  
Rail and Freight  
Intelligent Transportation Systems (example: timing of traffic signals)

#### Other Key Components

Safety  
Security  
Coordination with Land Use  
Congestion Management  
Fiscally Constrained

- **What:** The MTP is the blue print that guides future transportation improvements in the region. The plan sets goals, which are developed from federal guidelines and public and stakeholder input. The MTP documents the transportation needs for the future, lists strategies and alternatives for addressing those needs, projects available revenues, and anticipates the costs of projects.
- **How Often:** The MTP is typically updated every 5 years with a minimum horizon of 20 years.
- **Significance:** For a project to be funded with federal dollars, it must coincide with the goals in the MTP. All other plans and programs are linked to the MTP.

*Purpose: Develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that serves regional needs, promotes safety, supports economic development, and provides personal choice in the movement of people and goods.*

## What is WAMPO?

The **Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO)** provides regional transportation planning and coordination for communities in Sedgwick County, as well as Mulvane in Sumner County, and Andover in Butler County.

### Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)

MPOs are federally mandated for urbanized areas with populations over 50,000. MPOs provide regional transportation planning and coordination for their designated region. The MPO allows the region to qualify for federal highway funds, transit funds, and earmarks. Without these funds, the cost of transportation would rely entirely on local and state resources.

WAMPO leverages over \$70 million in funds per year for transportation projects in the region and is responsible for ensuring these funds are used in a fiscally constrained way.

WAMPO consists of the Transportation Policy Body (TPB), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and planning staff.

- The **Transportation Policy Body (TPB)** are the decision makers. The TPB guides staff planning efforts, assists in developing plans, and makes the final decisions on key documents and amendments. The TPB consists of state representatives, and elected local and regional officials.
- The **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** provides recommendations on technical issues, critiques documents and plans, and suggests revisions. The committee is made up of representatives from cities, counties, the state, WAMPO staff members, and a TPB member.
- **WAMPO Planning Staff** is comprised of planning and technical professionals that are responsible for the day to day operations. The staff provides assistance and support to the TAC and TPB, and organizes public participation activities.

The over \$70 million leveraged by WAMPO comes from federal and state funds. Transportation funds come from motor fuel taxes, as well as other taxes and transportation fees.



## Understanding the Transportation Planning Process

Transportation projects are only implemented after a long, careful, and inclusive process. Below is a very brief outline of key components in the transportation planning process.



- Population, employment, freight movement, land use, and traffic flow trends are researched and analyzed.
- Public participation opportunities are created and implemented throughout the entire planning process (public meetings, surveys, charettes, public hearings, and comment periods).
- Public input is used to accomplish the following:
  - Identify the goals, visions, opportunities, and needs of the region.
  - Identify regionally significant projects.
  - Define alternative strategies.
  - Develop a long range transportation plan, which includes a list of eligible projects.

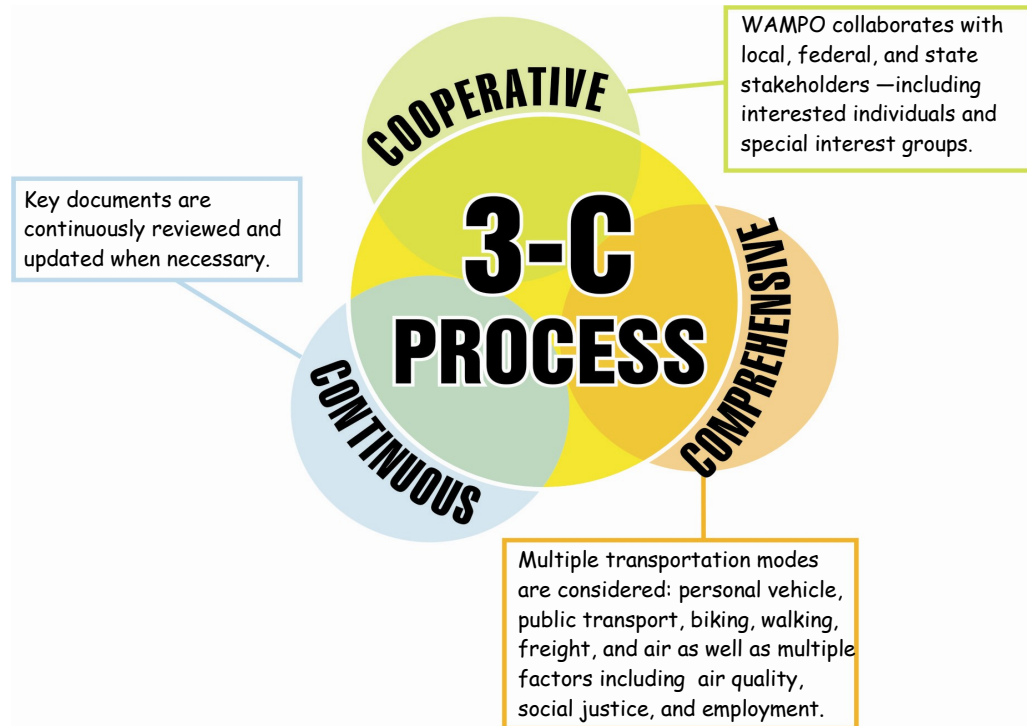
### WAMPO Project Eligibility Criteria

1. Projects must be within the WAMPO planning boundary.
2. The project must be listed in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and correspond with one or more goals identified in the MTP.
3. Road projects must be on roads functionally classified as a Minor Arterial or above if in urban boundaries, or a Rural Major Collector if outside of city boundaries (To look up Functional Classification Map for definitions and road classification visit [www.wampoks.org](http://www.wampoks.org)).
4. The projects must be sponsored by an agency authorized to receive federal funds (a taxing entity).
5. Eligible projects are typically funded with a maximum 80% state or federal money. A minimum match of 20% local funds is required.

## Transportation Planning Principles

*The planning process is more than merely a listing of future highways and planned transit upgrades; it requires developing strategies for operating, managing, maintaining, and financing the area's transportation system in order to advance the region's long-term goals.*

**3-C Process:** MPOs are guided by the 3-C process, which means the transportation planning process is continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive.



### WAMPO's Partners:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)
- Public transit providers
- Municipal and county governments